

Welcome Address

Louis A Farrugia

Chairman, Simonds Farsons Cisk plc

This is a uniquely novel conference for us to organise, but quite necessary if we are to treasure our industrial heritage.

It is now almost five months since Farsons hosted a number of Maltese and foreign distinguished guests when, in September 2012, we inaugurated the fourth Brewhouse in our history, replacing the facility which was built on this Mrieħel site in 1948. This new Brewhouse is actually the third one built by the Farsons family in its 85-year history in this industry, the fourth if one also considers the Malta Export Brewery of 1928.

This Company has been actively present on the Maltese industrial scene for these long years, so I venture to state that it is one of the pioneers of Maltese industry.

With this rich legacy in mind, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all the participants in this Industrial Heritage Conference organised by The Farsons Foundation in collaboration with the Department of the Built Heritage within the Faculty for the Built Environment of the University of Malta.

The presence of so many participants is a healthy indication of the growing awareness of Malta's industrial heritage. Your own background from such a varied spectrum of organisations and NGOs shows that it is not only our rich archaeological, artistic and military heritage which merits our attention. Malta's industrial heritage is not restricted to the underground power station at Kordin or to the installation at the Drydocks.

There is more to remember and treasure, and perhaps this is an appropriate time to draw on the experiences of all stakeholders in discussing what works in our approaches. At Farsons, we would very much like to present our own heritage but more so, we would like to generate a debate on how best to repair, restore and reuse our industrial past.

We view this as being very much part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), complementing the assistance we regularly forward through The Farsons Foundation to various organisations concerned in some way or other with Malta's heritage.

Beyond the Government's own responsibility, the private sector should also undertake its own initiatives. It is Farsons' intention to take a more active role in this regard over the next few years, and to participate through an investment that is linked to our own industrial heritage. Our plans are in their early stages of development as

yet, but I can assure you that we wish to recognise our industrial past, by investing in and highlighting our own contribution to Malta's identity and to the development of the country's economic and social history.

I am sure, given the distinguished participants we have gathered at this splendid venue, that we shall have a successful conference.

Thank you.